courses for village level health workers, social workers working with alcholics, drug addicts, destitute women, etc The proposal envisages that the proposed Centre will also offer one year diploma course in Gandhian and Vivekananda Studies The financial cost of the project is estimated to be Rs 69,57,500/-

An Expert Committee of UGC has visited the University, and recommended financial assistance for some of the activities The Commission has not been able to provide financial assistance on the basis of the above recommendations due to present constraint of resources

Assistance from Denmark for Environment and Afforestation Programmes

5423 DR KARTIKESWAR PATRA Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government have received and financial assistance from Denmark for the environment and afforestation programmes,

(b) if so, the details of the amount allocated, project-wise and State-wise and

(c) the Progress of these Projects so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM). (a) Yes, Sir

(b) Denmark, alongwith the World Bank, co-financed a Social Forestry Project in Haryana and Jammu & Kashmir The contribution of Denmark was 35 million Danish Kroners

(c) The project was successfully completed in 1991

[*Translation*]

Grants to Voluntary Organisations

5424 SHRI LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY
SHRI B L SHARMA PREM

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state

(a) the number of voluntary organisations provided grants by the Union Government for the promotion and propagation of Hindi during 1989-90, 1990-91 and 1991-92,

(b) whether requests have been received from voluntary organisations that the sanction of funds should be provided in June-July for its better utilisation and

(c) if so the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH) (a) Under the Scheme of Assistance to Voluntary Organisations for promotion of Hindi, 155,129 and 165 Voluntary organisations were provided grants during 1989-90, 1990-91 and 1991-92 respectively

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir The voluntary organisations have been requesting for early release of funds In the Grants-in-aid Committee meetings the need for a time schedule for processing the requests of Voluntary organisations for grant as well as its expeditious release was emphasised The applications for grant are examined by the Regional Offices of Central Hindi Directorate and are submitted to the Government duly recommended by the State-Level Committees Meetings of the Central Grants-in-Aid Committee are held on 3-4 occasions during

various quarters of the Financial year. Based on the recommendations of GIA Committee, grants are released immediately after settlement of accounts of grants sanctioned in the previous year and the Agreement Bond and Pre-stamped Receipts are submitted by the applicant organisations

[*English*]

National Authority for Prevention and Control of Aids

5425 AHRI BHAGEY GOBARDHAN. Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state

(a) the conditions attached to the 100 million dollar soft loan

(b) whether there is any proposal for formation of a national authority for prevention and control of AIDS, and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D K THARADEVI SIDDHARTHA) (a) to (c) Negotiations have been recently concluded with the World Bank for funding the National AIDS Control Project for a period of five years beginning April, 1992 involving an outlay of US $ 100 million

A Development Credit Agreement is now being processed for approval by the World Bank Board For credit effectiveness it is necessary for the Government of India and State/UT Governments to establish a dedicated structure and provide adequate staff and resources for implementing the activities which will be fund under the project

Activities for prevention and control of AIDS to be undertaken under the AIDS Control project are as under

- Programme Management
- Surveillance
- Blood Safety
- Information, Education & Communication
- Control of Sexually transmitted diseases
- Condom Promotion
- Case management

. emales and Males

5426 SHRISHRAVANKUMARPATEL

WELFARE be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government propose to raise the statutory marriageable age of both females and males to be one of the effective ways to curb population growth, and

(b) if so, the steps contemplated in that direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D K THARADEVI SIDDHARTHA) (a) and (b) The issue of raising the statutory marriageable age of both females and males is being examined in consultation with the concerned Ministries/Departments in the Government of India and the State Governments/UTs Administration

[*Translation*]

Blindness among Children

5427 SHRI KAMLA MISHRA MADHUKAR
SHRI N DENNIS

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state